**About Christ Fellowship Church**

**Our Mission:** We exist to make disciples of Christ who love God and love their neighbor.

**Our Vision:** To see the gospel spread into every corner of our lives and every corner of the globe.

**As we gather** each Sunday, our desire is to engage with the living God in authentic worship, giving him the praise he deserves, as we read, sing, pray, preach, and sit under the truth of God’s Word and respond in obedience. We look to give ourselves to bold prayer, to spend ourselves and our resources through joyful giving, and to create a culture of gracious hospitality among a diversely unified people.

**As we scatter** each week, we commit to give ourselves to one another in sanctifying community, to the lost through faithful evangelism in our spheres of influence, and to the suffering around us with Christ-like compassion, all in hopes of multiplying the witness of Christ in our city and around the world.

**CFC Kids:** As a congregation, we are deeply committed to next-generation discipleship. This church wants to come alongside parents as they raise their children in the Lord. To help toward that end on Sundays, we offer CFC Kids for children from birth through fifth grade. We offer CFC Kids throughout the entire length of the service for children pre-school and younger. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will attend the first part of the worship service and then exit for age-appropriate lessons during the sermon. Of course, you may keep your children with you throughout worship, if you like. If you have any questions about CFC Kids, please email Sarah Beth Shepard at sb@cfcbirmingham.org.

10/8/23

**What’s Happening at Christ Fellowship…**

***No Equip Tonight***

No Equip tonight. We’ll be back again next Sunday, October 15th.

***Fall Women’s Bible Study Options***

Ladies, please join us for one of 2 studies this Fall. Paige Herr will lead us in an inductive Bible study of 1 Kings on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am. Melissa Gazi and Lauren Mosteller will facilitate a Monday evening book discussion on Paul Miller’s *A Praying Life.* Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Two Men's Bible Study Options***

Starting the first week of October, the men's ministry will offer a morning and a lunch Bible study. Steve Killough will lead the morning Bible study on Tuesdays from 6:45-7:30am at the church, studying the Servant Songs in Isaiah. Billy Shepard will lead the lunch Bible Study on Thursdays from noon-12:45pm at the church, studying the book of 1 John. Register on the church center app.

***Adoptive and Foster Mom Group***

The adoptive and foster mom group will meet again Sunday, October 15, at 9:00am. All adoptive and foster moms are invited! For more information, contact Kim Currie at kimcurrie1234@gmail.com.

***Women’s Fall Held Event***

Join us at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 19, to hear Dr. Rachel Hagues, CFC member and associate professor of Samford University's Department of Social Work, discuss her work with young women in Tanzania. In addition, we'll hear about ways we can serve both abroad and at home. Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Hosting an International Student Thanksgiving Meal***

The days leading up to American Thanksgiving are a great opportunity to practice hospitality and invite international students to your home for a meal. We can offer ideas for a menu and conversation starters too! If you would like to host a small group of international students for a Thanksgiving meal on any of the dates of November 17-19 or 22-24, contact Keri Westbrook at kwestbrook@cfcbirmingham.org or Dennis Schauer at Schauer.dennis@gmail.com. There will be an informational training for those interested on Sunday afternoon October 29.

***Men's Preaching Opportunity at Brother Bryan Mission***

CFC partners with an excellent recovery ministry in downtown Birmingham, Brother Bryan Mission. Members of CFC preach their chapel service every Monday at 6:30pm, and we are in need of more men willing to preach. This is an excellent opportunity to grow in teaching God's Word, while helping men in need. Direct any questions to Billy at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org.

**Preschool Equip Teachers**

As we get ready to swap over to the second teaching quarter of Equip, we need four more preschool Equip teachers. The dates for this second quarter are October 29, November 5, November 12, and November 19. Just four weeks and the lessons are prepared for you in advance. Please email Sarah Beth at sb@cfcbirmingham.org if you are able to serve in this way!

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

**Pre-Service Music** (\*please remain seated)

“Thy Mercy, My God” Stocker & McCracken

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*33Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

 *34“For who has known the mind of the Lord,*

 *or who has been his counselor?”*

 *35“Or who has given a gift to him*

 *that he might be repaid?”*

*36For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

*1I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 11:33–12:2)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*1To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: 2May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.*

(Jude 1b-2)

“The Solid Rock” Bradbury & Mote

“My Worth Is Not in What I Own” Getty & Kendrick

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 73

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Bart Box

*11Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:11-13)

*31What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* (Romans 8:31-32)

**The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

 **Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic\* church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[\*that is the true Christian church of all times and all places]

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder” Newton & Taylor

“I Will Trust My Savior Jesus” Maxwell, Tranter, Robinson, & Thompson

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Nick Murray

 “The Gospel According to John: “What Is That to You?”

John 21:20-25

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Take My Life” Giglio, Havergal, Malan, & Tomlin

**Offering**

***9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*** (2 Corinthians 8:9)

***7Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*** (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

**Prayer of Intercession** James Finch

**The Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father in heaven,***

 ***hallowed be your name.***

***Your kingdom come,***

 ***your will be done,***

 ***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread,***

 ***and forgive us our debts,***

 ***as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

***And lead us not into temptation,***

 ***but deliver us from evil.***

***For yours is the kingdom***

 ***and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**Benediction**

*24Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.* (Jude 24-25)

“Doxology” Bourgeois & Ken

We are pleased that you have joined us for worship this morning.

Visitors and members alike are encouraged to fellowship with one another after the service. If you would like to speak with a pastor about a need in your life or for prayer, one will be available at the front of the room.

**Additional Explanatory Notes of Worship Elements**

*†* ***The Lord’s Supper***

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s Day as part of our worship and witness. The Lord’s Supper is an occasion for believers in Christ to be reminded of Jesus’ death in our place, to be strengthened by the promise of His coming, and to be renewed toward God and one another. All who have identified with Christ in baptism and who are in good standing with a local church that preaches the gospel are welcome at the Table.

If you are not a follower of Jesus, we invite you to spend this time in prayer reflecting on the Word that has been preached and the great offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. If you feel so inclined, we invite you to offer the following prayer to God:

“Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.”

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church, that we would maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3), that any cause for division amongst brothers and sisters in Christ would be addressed quickly and humbly, and that we would be united in mind and love for one another (1 Pet. 3:8).

***For Our City***

For Iron City Church, pastor Isaac Adams, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the men and women serving in the armed forces, that they would strive to maintain peace and order in the places they are serving, that the Lord would comfort and preserve the families of those who are deployed, and that we would faithfully give thanks to God for these men and women.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Bhutan: for the gospel to spread among the Tibetan Buddhists of Bhutan and to reach the King of Bhutan as well; for the many women who are victims of domestic violence, pray for their protection and rescue from violence; and for the small number of Christians among the majority Tibetan Buddhist population, who lead the country and prohibit the presence of Christianity.



